

## Batheaston Parish Council

### Notes of the Annual Village Meeting of the Batheaston Parish held in St Johns Church Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 7-30 pm

**Present :-** Cllrs D Lavington(Chairman), J Abbatt, P Blanking, J Connor, A Creed, P Davis, S Fremantle, D Jackson, L Kingsley, J Moon, D Nokes, D Robins, S Robson and M Townley (Clerk)

**Apologies :** Cllrs M Johns, C Routh, M Veal

**In attendance:** 27 Residents signed-in.

#### Welcome

The Chairman thanked all attendees for their interest and introduced the 3 Speakers – Sgt. Paul Honeychurch (Police Changes), Cllr Stan Cherry (Parish Plans) and Mr D Blanking (Twinning Assoc.) who will address the Meeting.

All 14 of the Parish Councillors were introduced and grateful thanks expressed for all their efforts – unpaid.

Thanks were also offered for the past year's efforts / service from this Council's 3 Handymen, Gardener, Warden & Clerk.

#### Annual Report 2005 / 06

The report had been issued to all Households over 2 weeks previously and highlights of the past year's activities included:-

- (a) Investments made in the Charmy Down P&R Application, assisted by grants from our sister Parish Councils;
- (b) New climbing Frame in the Play Area – again with grants from B&NES;
- (c) Installation of requested Youth Shelter – with grants from B&NES and the Police;
- (d) Running and Maintenance of the car park Toilet Block commenced last April.
- (e) Precept - This Council operates a 3-year forward forecast and, as the above investments reduced the Reserves, the Precept returned to the 2001/2002/2003 budget of £37,000.
- (f) The Charmy Down P&R Application was initiated to provide an acceptable facility this side of Bath as Lambridge is too small, in the wrong site and will desecrate the Bathampton Meadows. The 3 Parish councils are dedicated to preserving the Meadows.
- (g) Road Safety improvements are continuing. The B&NES Highways Dept. did not complete their speed table/bumps installation due to financial constraints, and the "Speed Flasher Units" are now being installed to enable the 20mph goal to be achieved.
- (h) A revision of all parking lines has taken over 2 years of planning. Despite some very detailed consultations the contractor has still managed to put lines down where not approved and corrections have been promised. A resident enquired about a cut-out in Catherine Way to provide parking. The B&NES Highways Dept. has costed this cut-out at £15,000 – which cannot be included in their programme. If residents are able to raise the monies themselves then B&NES would install.
- (j) Dog fouling is a problem and the new Dog Warden is to action problems.

#### Sgt Paul Honeychurch – Operational Changes.

- (i) There are new arrangements for beat bobbies who are now being aligned to Parish and Ward boundaries – in line with Government guidelines for rural areas.
- (j) Neighbourhood policing will be assisted by Community Service Officers (CSOs) and the existing 6 Officers will be increased to 39 – with 20 dedicated to Bath.
- (k) The Police do require all problems to be reported to them. Call **0845 456 7000**
- (l) There are too few Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in this Village and more are desired.

#### Cllr Stan Cherry – Bathford's Parish Plan.

- (m) The Bathford Parish Council has just completed their Parish Plan (PP) – with a supplementary Village Design Statement. Cllr cherry explained in some detail how the PP was initiated and completed.
- (n) The PP is similar to the Village Appraisal, which this Council completed and issued in 1997.
- (o) Questionnaires were prepared by a Village Sub-committee (not just Councillors) and distributed to all households. The replies have been analysed and various Action Groups have been established and are working towards the various goals identified.

#### Mr Don Blanking – Batheaston Twinning Association.

- (p) The Association was established 4 years ago with around 75 members.
- (q) Last year some 56 members visited the French village of Oudon and formally signed the joint Twinning Charter.
- (r) To reciprocate around 65 French visitors are due here in early July to repeat the formalities in this Country.
- (s) A co-ordinating group has prepared a very full programme for this visit – over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> July - and copies issued to all residents at this Annual Meeting.
- (t) The full weekend will be 'musically' biased making use of much local talent and Encore.
- (u) During the last 4 years there have been many fund-raising projects and on 30<sup>th</sup> April will be the (now infamous) Cow Pat Raffle.
- (v) However various grants have been applied for, to assist in entertaining our French visitors, and successful outcomes are anticipated.
- (w) The very successful "Beaujolais Nouveau" evening is again planned for this November and all are very welcome to attend this event and also join the Association.

#### Final Thank You

Many residents asked questions of all the Speakers and Cllr Lavington warmly thanked all Speakers and attendees for this lively evening.

The sound system had been loaned and set up by Carol Bond and many, many thanks for this help.

The meeting closed at 9-15pm followed by refreshments.